

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to insist their stations air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election concerns me greatly as a citizen. First, Sinclair is essentially giving free air time to one side in this election and doing so in a devious manner. This should not be too surprising given the changes we have seen in recent years as the media has increasingly been taken over by "big business". In the larger scheme of things, this is a perfect example of the dangers of media consolidation which now stands as a direct threat to the democratic process of free elections in our country.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.